

Driehaus Legislation to Promote Efficiency in Information Control Designations Clears House Committee

WASHINGTON, DC—Representative Steve Driehaus today announced that legislation he introduced to promote accountability and openness in government has been approved by the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. The Reducing Information Control Designations Act (H.R. 1323) would establish regulations to make government information control designations more efficient and transparent.

“We all know that sensitive government material must be carefully controlled, but most government information is not sensitive and should be easily available to the public. There are 107 known government classifications, which amount to a confusing and inconsistent system for classifying information. My legislation will simplify the way we control information, increase efficiency, and promote greater openness and transparency in government,” said Rep. Driehaus.

Having been approved by the committee, the bill will now proceed to the House floor.

The Reducing Information Control Designations Act would create a common language for the way government controls information. The legislation would require the Archivist of the United States to put in place regulations pertaining to information control designations. The bill would charge federal agency heads with implementing these regulations and empower government inspectors to conduct audits to ensure that regulations were being followed. Additionally, the legislation would create training programs for those with the authority to control information.

March 15-21 is Sunshine Week, a national initiative to open a dialogue about the importance of open government and freedom of information. Participants include print, broadcast and online news media, civic groups, libraries, non-profits, and schools.